

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 70, 77, and 78 as follows:

1-69. (Canceled)

70. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating with a camera ~~through a communication system~~, the camera being controllable from each of a plurality of control apparatuses ~~coupled to the~~ through a communication system, said apparatus comprising:

a connecting device adapted to connect to the ~~communication system~~ camera;

and

a control device adapted to inhibit others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera ~~when~~ in the case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the communication system.

71. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus controls each of a plurality of cameras through the communication system.

72. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a designation device adapted to designate a desired image on a screen of a display device.

73. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein said control device inhibits another control apparatus from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

74. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein said control device releases the other control apparatus from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

75. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to display a time at which the control of the camera is inhibited.

76. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to display that the one of said plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera, when the control of the camera is inhibited.

77. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a camera ~~coupled to a communication system having a plurality of control apparatuses~~, wherein the camera is controllable by each of ~~the~~ a plurality of control apparatuses through a communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

controlling the camera through the communication system with one of the plurality control apparatuses; and

inhibiting the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the communication system ~~when~~ in the case that the camera is controlled by the one of the plurality of control apparatuses through the communication system.

78. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 77, wherein a plurality of cameras are ~~coupled to~~ controllable through the communication system, and wherein said controlling step comprises a step of controlling the plurality of cameras, through the communication system, by the one of the control apparatuses.

79. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 77, further comprising a step of displaying a plurality of images on the screen, and a step of designating one of the images displayed on the screen.

80. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 77, wherein said inhibiting step comprises a step of inhibiting the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

81. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 80, further comprising a step of releasing the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

82. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 77, further comprising a step of displaying an indication that the camera is controlled by the one of the plurality of control apparatuses in a case where the control of the camera is inhibited.

83. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 80, further comprising a step of displaying the predetermined period of time.

84. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for controlling a camera, said apparatus comprising:
a communication device adapted to communicate with a plurality of control apparatuses through a network; and
a control device adapted to inhibit others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the network.

85. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 84, wherein said control device inhibits another control apparatus from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

86. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 85, wherein said control device releases the another control apparatus from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

87. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 84, wherein the plurality of control apparatuses can control at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network.

88. (Withdrawn) A method of controlling a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

communicating with a plurality of control apparatuses thorough a network; and
inhibiting others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that the camera is controlled by one of the plurality of control apparatuses through the network.

89. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 88, wherein said inhibiting step comprises a step of inhibiting the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

90. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 89, further comprising a step of releasing the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

91. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to Claim 88, wherein the plurality of control apparatuses can control at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network.

92. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for controlling a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a control device adapted to inhibit others of a plurality of control apparatuses from controlling at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through a network in a case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network; and

a communication device adapted to communicate with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result by said control device.

93. (Withdrawn) A method of controlling a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

inhibiting others of a plurality of control apparatuses from controlling at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through a network in a case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network; and

communicating with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result in said inhibiting step.

94. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for controlling a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a judging device adapted to judge whether one of a plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through a network;

a control device adapted to inhibit others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that said judging device judges that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the network; and

a communication device adapted to communicate with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result by said control device.

95. (Withdrawn) A method of controlling a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

judging whether one of a plurality of control apparatuses controls a camera through a network;

inhibiting others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that said judging step judges that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the network; and

communicating with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result in said inhibiting step.